

BIBB COUNTY

Honorable William Owings

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PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Economic Security (training for workforce)
2. Family Resource Center/Grant Writer
3. Substance Abuse Prevention

Issues

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county.

Health - Children's (0 - 19) physical and mental well-being in the county.

Pervasive use of legal or illegal drugs

Policy Council Action Steps:

- implement parent education program for increasing awareness
- implement 'Tar Wars' program
- sponsor/promote operation Save-Our-Teens

Early detection of child health issues

Policy Council Action Steps:

- support efforts of Bibb county child caring foundation to provide school-based health screenings
- dissemination of information on child health issues and interventions

Childhood eating disorders

Policy Council Action Steps:

- address childhood eating disorders including obesity, diabetes, anorexia, nutrition, and exercise
- dissemination of information on childhood eating disorders to raise awareness of parents

Safety - Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

Children with indication of abuse or neglect

Policy Council Action Steps:

- educate parents about how to watch for symptoms of child abuse, including physical, sexual, emotional, and verbal
- education through school-based parent involvement center

Children live and attend school in safe environments

Policy Council Action Steps:

- operation Save-our-Teens, continue to sponsor program in schools
- work toward getting school resource officers in schools
- continue to support Stop the Knock

Lack of Resource Center

Policy Council Action Steps:

- implement the Parent Project
- promote/support Boys and Girls Club
- raise awareness regarding indifference/apathy in parenting

Education - Children learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

Communication with home and schools to improve education

Policy Council Action Steps:

- communicate to parents the basics children should know when entering kindergarten
- collect information on childcare programs in Bibb county and provide to schools so that schools can communicate with daycare agencies

Lack of intervention programs

Policy Council Action Steps:

- support/promote scientifically research based interventions programs
- seek opportunities for grant funding to support programs
- research feasibility of establishing Family Resource Center, including intervention for domestic violence, and Children's Advocacy Center by DHR

Comprehensive Needs Assessment

Policy Council Action Steps:

- develop a survey to assess community needs
- administer survey
- evaluate results
- determine needs

Early Care and

Education - Children (0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

Need for additional head start program

Policy Council Action Steps:

- locate and list all daycare sites
- research feasibility of additional head start program

Increase understanding regarding head start program needs

Policy Council Action Steps:

- meet with Richard Dorrough, Commissioner of DCA
- eliminate barriers to serving more students through head start

Economic Security

- Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

Population lacks highly trained workforce

Policy Council Action Steps:

- promote/support education of citizens in Bibb county to allow them access to better jobs
- work to decrease high school drop-out rate

Lack of Family Resource Center

Policy Council Action Steps:

- address local research feasibility of Family Resource Center to include adult education/family literacy center
- secure a grant writer for Bibb county for all government entities

Parent Involvement and Skills

- Parents and guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

Parent Awareness of abuse or neglect

Policy Council Action Steps:

- educate parents about how to watch for symptoms of abuse, including physical, sexual, emotional, and verbal

Lack of Family Resource Center

Policy Council Action Steps:

- address local research feasibility of Family Resource center to include adult education/family literacy center

Accomplishments

1. The Bibb County Children's Policy Council has been instrumental in bringing members of the various agencies together to discuss needs of and resources for Bibb County's Children. Policy Council meetings have provided a forum for ongoing discussion which has helped to streamline to combine efforts and avoid duplication.
2. Members of the Children's Policy Council have publicized specific efforts, including impact of drugs on youth, and efforts and prevalence of diabetes on children to increase awareness of parents and general population. Grant opportunities have been identified and are being sought for intervention.

